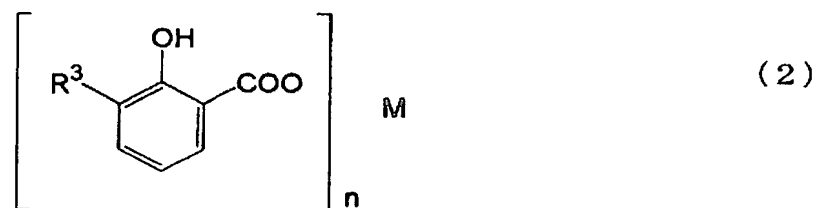
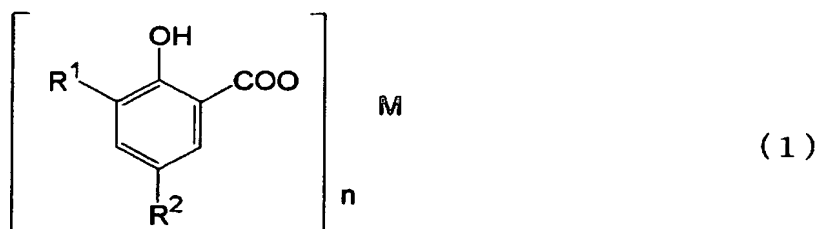


CLAIMS

1. A lubricating oil composition, comprising: a lubricant base oil having a sulfur content adjusted to 0.1% or less by mass; and the following (A) and/or (B) incorporated into the base oil in an amount of 0.005 to 5% by mass of the total of the composition, the amount being an amount in terms of the metal element therein:

(A) one or more alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salicylates in which the ratio (or percentage) of a salicylate constituent represented by the following general formula (1) is adjusted to 10% or more by mol, and/or one or more (over)basic salts thereof; and

(B) one or more alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salicylates in which the ratio of one or more monoalkylsalicylate constituents is adjusted to 85% or more by mol and the ratio of a monoalkylsalicylate constituent represented by the following general formula (2) is adjusted to 50% or more by mol, and/or one or more (over)basic salts thereof:



wherein R^1 and R^2 may be the same or different and each represent a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 40 carbon atoms and the hydrocarbon group may contain oxygen or nitrogen in the general formula (1); R^3 represents a secondary alkyl group having 10 or more and less than 20 carbon atoms in the general formula (2); and M represents an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal and n represents 1 or 2 in accordance with the valence number of the metal in the general formulae (1) and (2).

2. The lubricating oil composition according to claim 1, comprising: the lubricant base oil having a sulfur content adjusted to 0.1% or less by mass; and the (A) and/or (B) incorporated into the base oil in an amount of 0.005 to 5% by mass of the total of the composition, the amount being an amount in terms of the metal element therein, wherein the total ratio of the salicylate constituents having the alkyl group at least at the 3-position in all salicylate constituents contained in the lubricating oil is 65% or more by mol.

3. The lubricating oil composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein either one of R^1 and R^2 in the general formula (1) is an alkyl group which has 10 to 40 carbon atoms, and the other is a hydrocarbon group which has less than 10 carbon atoms (and may contain oxygen or nitrogen).

4. The lubricating oil composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein either one of R^1 and R^2 in the general formula (1)

is an alkyl group which has 10 or more and less than 20 carbon atoms, and the other is a hydrocarbon group which has less than 10 carbon atoms (and may contain oxygen or nitrogen).

5. The lubricating oil composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the total sulfur content of the composition is 0.2% or less by mass.

6. The lubricating oil composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, which contains no zinc dithiophosphate.

7. The lubricating oil composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, which does not contain any sulfur-containing additive substantially.

8. The lubricating oil composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7, which is used under conditions that the water content in the lubricating oil becomes 200 ppm or more by mass.

9. The lubricating oil composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8, which is used for an internal combustion engine.

10. The lubricating oil composition according to claim 9, wherein the internal combustion engine is an internal combustion engine using fuel having a sulfur content of 50 ppm or less by mass.

11. A method for improving the oxidation life of a lubricating oil, wherein the lubricating oil composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7 is used under conditions that the water content in the composition becomes 200 ppm or more by mass.